

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawings are submitted for each of Figures 1-7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Specification objection

The specification is amended to include section headings. In addition, each of the objected features of claims 2, 6 and 9-11 are removed. As to the objected "two segments" of claim 7, these segments are designated 8B1 and 8B2 in Figure 2, for example, consistent with the disclosure on page 7, line 20.

Accordingly, the specification objections are believed to be addressed and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Drawing objection

Replacement drawings are submitted for each of Figures 1-7. The replacement drawings are believed to present lines and numbers that address the draftsperson's objection 10. In addition, any solid black area is believed to be consistent to address the draftsperson's objection 11. Further, the numbers and reference characters as well as the legends are believed to be clear and address the draftsperson's objection 12.

As to the draftsperson's comments regarding whether part #18 is opened in Figure 1, the drawing is believed to be

correct. That is, there appears to be no need to add a line next to part #2.

As to the drawing objection set forth in items 5b and 6 of the Official Action, the features objected to have been removed from the claims.

In view of this, it is believed that the drawings are fully compliant with the rules and do not present new matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claim status

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this application. Claims 13 and 14 are canceled; leaving claims 1-12 and 15-20 for consideration. Claims 3, 15 and 18 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 7 and 10-12 are allowable.

35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under the written description requirement of 35 USC 112, first paragraph. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to claim 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom, claim 1 is amended to change "at least two cable operating mechanisms" to "two cable operating mechanisms". Since the

Official Action recognizes that two cable operating mechanisms are disclosed, such an amendment is believed to obviate this rejection.

As to claim 11 (and 12), claim 11 is amended to remove reference to "a spring connected to the front gearshift". Such an amendment is believed to obviate this rejection.

Claim 13 is canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to point a), the claims are amended in a manner that is believed to conform to U.S. practice, including adding the correct article at the beginning of each claim.

As to point b), claim 1 is amended to remove the phrase "especially for".

As to point c), claim 1 is amended to remove the phrase "such as".

As to point d), claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12 and 16 are amended to change the phrases "can be", "able to" etc. to "is" to clarify that these features are not permissive and are required.

As to point e), claims 1 and 10 are amended to remove the narrow ranges in order to set forth the metes and bounds of the claims.

As to point f), claim 9 is amended to clarify that 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph does not apply to this claim. Claims 13 and 14 are canceled.

As to point g), the claims are amended in a manner that is believed to provide a proper antecedent basis for each of the recited features.

As to point h), claims 1 and 15 are amended to remove the alternative expressions.

As to point i), claim 2 is amended in a manner that is believed to clarify to which element is being referred.

As to point j), claim 8 only includes one recitation of "a spring" and is believed to clear, there being no previous recitations of a spring.

As to point k), claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended in a manner that consistently uses the same terms.

Since each of the items noted in the Official Action are believed to be addressed, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

35 USC 102(b) rejection

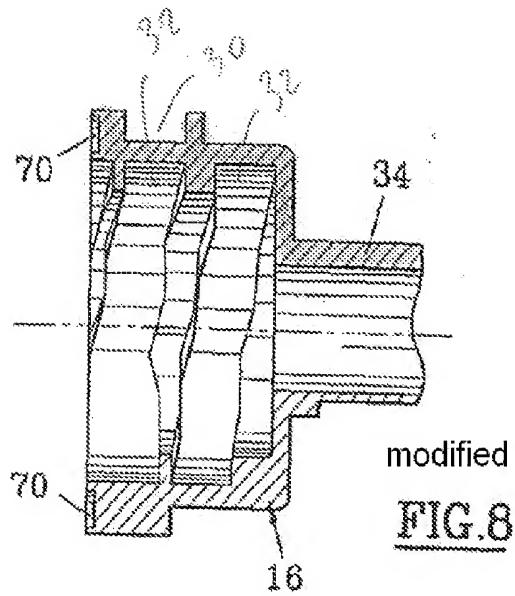
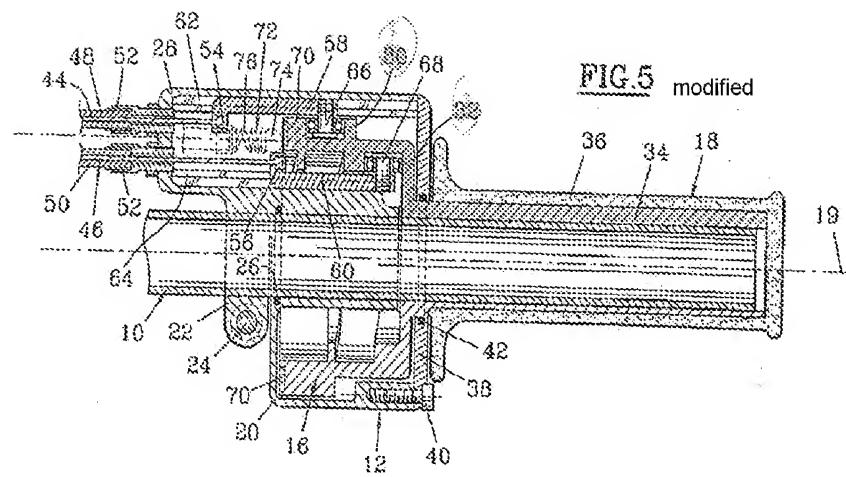
Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by SAVARD US 5,970,816. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amend to clarify that the invention is directed a speed changer wherein the rotary assembly formed from the operating mechanism of the rear cable and the grip are rotationally coupled intermittently to the operating mechanism of the front cable. As recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art, such a coupling is obtained by a clutch.

SAVARD describes a speed changer comprising a control handle 18 which is integral with the barrel 16 (column 9, lines 30-32). The barrel includes two tracks 30 and 32, one external and one internal (column 9, lines 40-43). The first track 30 corresponds to the pinions and the second track 32 to the plates (column 20, line 20).

If one were to equate the speed changer of SAVARD with the recited speed changer, this would require that one of the two tracks 30 and 32 of SAVARD moves with the handle independently of the other track (are rotationally coupled intermittently).

However, this is not the case because handle 18 and tracks 30, 32 are integral as described and shown in the drawings (see C. 9, l. 41-45 and fig 5 or fig 8, a modified version provided below with the tracks and handle represented in color).



Thus, both tracks and the grip of SAVARD are always rotationally coupled. SAVARD does not suggest that a second operating mechanism and a rotating grip are rotationally coupled intermittently to the first operating mechanism as required by claim 1. Accordingly, SAVARD does not anticipate claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Canceling claims 13 and 14 is believed to obviate the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of these claims as being anticipated by PRAJCZER (WO 98/36960).

In view of the above amendments and foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Liam McDowell/
Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/jr

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-7 of the drawings